MOBILITY

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

BRENDAN BYRNE, Governor | DECEMBER, 1979 | LOUIS J. GAMBACCINI, Commissioner

Extensive repairs and renovations to the historic Rutherford Station not only uncovered its former architectural highlights, but also symbolizes the revitalization of the community's business district and rail transport.

RAIL STATIONS RESTORED

New Jersey's railroad passenger stations, neglected for decades, have started to bloom again.

A resurgence of the stations as centers of community interest and activity has gained momentum this year with rehabilitation work at more than a dozen of the 176 active facilities throughout the state.

There have been three incentives to this work:

- Recognition of the historical—and sometimes architectural—significance of stations, and their ability to contribute economically and aesthetically to the future of the community.
- Cooperative efforts by local government, business, civic and other groups to renovate, restore and utilize them.
- Funds and other assistance from the Department of Transportation under a statewide station improvement program as part of a broader program to make public transportation more attractive.

By the end of this month, in the first year of the Department's program, improvements ranging from relatively minor, first-phase work to large-scale renovations, will be completed at 14 stations.

An outstanding example of what has been done is the Rutherford station on the Bergen County Line of Conrail's Hoboken Division.

Located at the hub of the borough's business section, the station serves hundreds of commuters daily, including students at the Rutherford campus of Fairleigh Dickinson University. It is seen as a key to the revitalization of the area, and its restoration has been a pet community project for several years.

Symbol of Revival

Built in 1897, the station symbolizes both the development of the town and the growth, decline and revival of rail transport.

Because of its innovative design and finely detailed work combined with the classical and colonial elements in vogue when it was built, the station is con-

Continued on page 4

Boy Scout paints railroad underpass

A once dingy and graffiti-filled underpass at the Morris Plains Railroad Station has a new coat of paint thanks to the efforts of Kenrich Bergmann, a 17-year-old high school senior, who decided to paint it himself.

After obtaining Department approval and paint from the Borough of Morris Plains, Kenrich recruited the help of his father, brothers, and friends to help in the painting.

"I think the new paint job will make a lot of people happy," Kenrich said.

The youth conceived the project as a community service and to earn his Eagle Scout badge, the highest rank in the Boy Scouts.

BOND ISSUE APPROVED

New Jersey voters endorsed the $475 million Transportation Bond Issue by a margin of nearly 100,000 votes on November 6. This is the first transportation bond to be approved since 1968. Three other transportation bond measures were defeated in the last decade.

The 1979 Bond Issue differed from the earlier unsuccessful ones in that it drew no strong opposition. Instead, as its balanced public transportation and road repair and renovation projects and increased local aid became more widely understood, it gained bipartisan endorsement from civic, political, transportation, commuter, professional and trade organizations all over the State.

"The success of the 1979 Transportation Bond Issue is due to good planning and dedicated people who convinced New Jerseyans that the projects planned, many of which were requested locally, cannot be put off any longer. I also view the approval as an expression of support for improved public transpor-

Continued on page 2

GOVERNOR NAMES FOUR TO BOARD

Governor Brendan Byrne nominated the four public members of the New Jersey Transit Corporation's Board of Directors in November.

Named by the Governor were Verdell Roundtree of Plainfield, William Rodgers of North Brunswick, John McGoldrick of Princeton and Martin Brody of Short Hills.

All the nominees commute to work daily and have wide experience on public interest boards. Ms. Roundtree is New Jersey Director of the United Negro College Fund; Rodgers serves as staff vice president for RCA's Corporate Services; McGoldrick is a partner in the law firm of McCarter and English and Brody is chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Restaurant Associates Industries, Inc.

Louis J. Gambaccini, Transportation Commissioner; Clifford A. Goldman, State Treasurer and Betty Wilson, First Deputy Environmental Protection Com-

Continued on page 2

Meetings held on new plan

The Department of Transportation is holding public meetings on the first element of a new Transportation Plan describing goals, objectives and policies for shaping public transportation and highway development in the 1980s.

"Land use, energy and the environment are the major thrusts," said Commissioner Louis J. Gambaccini. "This is not a final plan, but part of an evolutionary process, affected by lots of public input and changes as future trends become clearer," he added.

The first element, "Surface Passenger Transportation," is being circulated throughout the state and will be followed by sections on goods movement and air and water transportation. Unlike previous "Master Plans" which emphasized specific long-term projects, the Transportation Plan will be concerned with the philosophy of transportation and focus on three concepts:

- The use of transportation policy to shape land use, funding and development trends. Public transit would be expanded while highway construction would be restrained to channel new housing, commercial and industrial development into existing transportation corridors.
- A more thorough integration of transportation modes. Highways would include bus and carpool lanes, and more bus and railroad park-and-ride facilities.
- The use of low-cost ways to increase highway efficiency and capacity. A new traffic light might substitute for a rebuilt intersection or a redesigned exit lane might substitute for a cloverleaf.

A supplementary document is expected to be released soon describing specific short-range capital improvement projects for the next four to seven years. A long-range plan is projected for release in mid-1980.

Comments and questions about the Transportation Plan may be directed to Melvin H. Lehr, Director of Planning and Research or James Crawford, Director of Community Involvement, NJDOT, 1035 Parkway Avenue, Trenton, N.J. 08625.

MOBILITY is a quarterly publication of the New Jersey Department of Transportation, Office of Public Affairs, to inform the general public about the Department and its activities. If you want to be on the mailing list, write to MOBILITY, Bureau of Publications, New Jersey Department of Transportation, 1035 Parkway Ave., Box 101, Trenton, N.J. 08625.

Vol. 1 No. 5-December 1979

DOT CREWS READY FOR WINTER

If this season's early snowfall is indicative of the winter weather ahead, keeping roads open and public transit running will be a challenge which the Department's maintenance forces are prepared to meet.

Highway maintenance crews are ready with "wetted salt," which is expected to help overcome the problem of melting snow and ice in below zero temperatures at considerable cost savings.

After two years of experiments with a combination of sodium chloride and liquid calcium chloride, a pilot program will be carried out to see how effective the wetted salt will be under varying winter conditions.

The Rail Transportation Management staff has been working with Conrail officials to anticipate and eliminate problems associated with winter before they develop.

The program includes testing all train, air and steam lines, adding tight-fitting covers on undercarriage electrical control boxes to keep out snow and ice, adding dry-air filters to eliminate moisture that could cause freezing problems and assuring that anti-freeze is where it may be needed.

Track switches are being checked for proper operation and provision is being made for an adequate supply of propane for switch heaters.

Also part of the efforts coordinated with Conrail is a program to eliminate potentially dangerous conditions at train stations by salting the station platforms.

Rt. 27—Wood Avenue work underway

Work is under way to eliminate the traffic bottleneck that has been choking access to the Harrison A. Williams Jr. Metropark rail station in Iselin, Woodbridge Township.

Increasing use of the rail facility and growth of a nearby industrial park has led to a two-phase project that first involves widening Route 27 and installing left turn lanes at its intersection with Wood Avenue, whch leads to the station. Wood Avenue then will be widened from two to four lanes under the tracks of the Northeast Corridor Line.

Wood Avenue will be widened under the rail bridge without disrupting the main line train service, a task which calls for carefully planned and unusual procedures. A portion of the existing structure will be blasted away while temporary underpinning supports the tracks. At the same time new abutments and a new bridge will be constructed parallel to the old structure. Then the new bridge will be rolled into place one half at a time on weekends and during off-peak hours.

The Department's Office of Community Involvement met with local officials and area business leaders to assure them that construction, expected to take more than two years to complete, will not impede access to nearby business and industrial facilities.

BOND APPROVAL (From page 1)

tation in this State," said Commissioner Louis J. Gambaccini.

The Citizens for Transportation Bond, a coalition of government, business and labor groups, raised $125,000 for advertising and radio ads and with Department members manned a Speakers Bureau whose members addressed more than 200 organizations around the State.

The Commissioner explained New Jersey's transportation needs during press, television and radio interviews and arranged media tours of planned projects. Other public information efforts included distribution of special press releases and more than 100,000 explanatory brochures and placement of special displays in transportation and shopping sites around the State.

TRANSIT APPOINTMENTS (From page 1)

missioner are the Administration's statutory appointees to the seven-member board.

The first meeting of the new board will take place following the confirmation of the public members by the Senate.

According to Gambaccini, who serves as chairman of the board, it is virtually certain that the corporation will have its headquarters in Newark, New Jersey's largest city and busiest bus and rail transit center. Several buildings in the vicinity of Penn Station were under consideration at press time.

A "transition team" has been working on the shift from the Commuter Operating Agency structure since the law establishing the corporation was signed in July. Its activities include evaluating which responsibilities will be transferred; developing uniform graphics to identify New Jersey's diverse carriers to raise public awareness and use of the system (new bus stop signs and shelters were made possible through passage of the Bond Issue); setting up payroll and accounting systems; and continuing work on transit service and financial and management systems with the aid of a $500,000 federal grant announced by President Carter in New Brunswick in October.

GROUP STUDIES TRANSIT BARRIERS

Public meetings to identify problems faced by elderly and handicapped persons in using public transportation and a Spanish edition of a brochure describing assistance provided by the state are current efforts by the Department to make public transportation more accessible.

The meetings have been held by the Department's Elderly and Handicapped Advisory Group, composed of representatives of New Jersey service agencies and advocacy organizations, to identify problems and propose plans for developing transit services and related facilities without physical barriers.

Comments and suggestions at the meetings and at hearings next spring will be used to draft the Department's Transition Plan under a federal law requiring that all transit facilities be made "barrier free" by July 1982.

The brochure, "Helping the Transportation Disadvantaged," outlines the Department's programs of transportation services for the elderly and handicapped, including reduced fares and provision of special vehicles. The Spanish edition is being distributed by the Office of Hispanic Affairs of the Department of Community Affairs.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION SHAPES FUTURE

Some of the best "transportation designers" are people who have never drawn a blueprint. They are people who know their home town, understand the environment in which they live, know their transportation needs and are willing to exchange ideas.

The Department of Transportation recognizes this and encourages dialogue between residents of a communuty and its staff. Such discussions not only help develop a sensitivity to local needs and conditions, but also frequently result in an end product better than either group could produce by itself.

There are many examples of successful dialogue. Here are a few:

- Project modified to meet community need. Bershire Valley Road, Morris County, planned as a four-lane road was redesigned with two lanes and shoulders after Department review of community input and supporting traffic analysis.
- Project scheduling changed to reflect citizen concerns. Wood Avenue in Edison and Woodbridge was to be closed for reconstruction of the railroad underpass. As a result of meetings with community officials, commuters and local businesses, construction plans were changed to permit the roadway to remain open, minimizing impact on local businesses. (See story page 2.)
- Design details altered on basis of technical information affecting the local environment. In a railroad reelectrification program residents of Summit suggested the use of a new type electrical substation, permitting the unit to be located outside of their neighborhood.
- Design changed to make better use of local resources. Land required for Interstate Route 78 was significantly reduced to preserve as much of the Watchung Reservation, Union County, as possible. Naturally landscaped oversized bridges were designed to permit people and wildlife to cross over the highway in a parklike setting.
- Auxiliary features added to meet local desires. A bikeway was included in the design for the Route 152 bridge in Somers Point, Atlantic County, at the request of citizens attending a public meeting.
- Advance scheduling work permits alternative planning by those affected. Discussions with shippers along the North Jersey Coast Line prior to repairs to the Manasquan River bridge enabled them to make other arrangements for shipping during construction.

The common element in all of these examples has been an exchange of information and discussions involving local officials and business leaders, residents of a community and Department representatives. The discussions represent compromise and coordination, two ingredients needed to successfully carry out transportation improvements.

In addition to the local or county planning or transportation agencies, the Department receives ideas and suggestions concerning planned or ongoing projects. Comments should be sent to James A. Crawford, Director, Office of Community Involvement, NJDOT, 1035 Parkway Avenue, Box 101, Trenton, New Jersey 08625, or call 609-292-4718.

NJDOT FACTS FILE

NEW JERSEY RIDE SHARING PROGRAM

ESTABLISHED CARPOOLS	Number of Participating Employers	Carpool Participants	EMPLOYERS REQUESTING ASSISTANCE IN FORMING CARPOOLS
Business & Industry	250	55,000	84
State, county and local government	3	291	31
TOTAL	253	55,291	115

Based on the average of 2.5 people in each carpool, it is estimated that 670 gallons of fuel is saved by each carpool per year.

ESTABLISHED VANPOOLS	Number of Participating Employers	Vans in Use	Riders	Additional Vans on Order
Business & Industry	42	637	7,484	239
State, county and local government	1	10	100	0
TOTAL	43	647	7,584	239

Estimated annual fuel savings — 4.7 million gallons*

VANPOOLS BEING FORMED	Number of Participating Employers	Vans on Order	Projected Number of Riders
Business & Industry	12	40	400
State, county and local government	5	28	288
TOTAL	17	68	688

Estimated annual fuel savings — 500,000 gallons*

*Based on a statistical average of fuel consumption by vans compared to passenger cars, the number of cars replaced by vans and an average 63.7-mile daily vanpool round trip.

SOURCE: OFFICE OF RIDE SHARING, NJDOT

Rt. 18-Parkway interchange opens

The early December opening of southbound interchange 105 in Tinton Falls, Monmouth County, will permit motorists traveling eastbound on Route 18 to enter the Garden State Parkway, and will open an additional seven miles of the toll road to commercial traffic.

Truck traffic that formerly had to leave the Parkway to Exit 98 in Wall Township will now be permitted to continue north to Exit 105, gaining access to Routes 18, 35 and 36.

The interchange was designed and built under Department of Transportation supervision and funded by the Parkway.

Aviation town meetings held statewide

A series of Aviation Town Meetings and recommendations for an Airport Development Aid Program for the 1980's highlighted recent Department efforts to improve aviation facilities in the State.

The "Town Meetings" were co-sponsored by the Department's Division of Aeronautics, airport and airline executives and several pilots organizations. Discussions centered on aid for public and private airports, taxes on aviation fuel, and the need for new air safety equipment.

Walter Kies, Director of Aeronautics, was pleased with the results of the meetings. "We heard from people at every level of the aviation community," he said, adding that the discussions"...created an awareness of aviation progress as well as identifying the problems."

In comments submitted at hearings held by the New Jersey House and Senate Committees on aviation legislation, the Department made four major recommendations:

- Make Newark Airport eligible to receive up to $5 million annually to upgrade facilities at reliever airports to permit their use as satellites.
- Allow the state to administer federal funding programs to insure uniform airport development and permit allocation of funds to priority safety and improvement programs.
- Provide funding to relieve traffic congestion and improve access at public airports.
- Permit funding for privately-owned airports that are deemed necessary for the coordinated statewide development of aviation.

RAIL STATIONS

(From page 1)

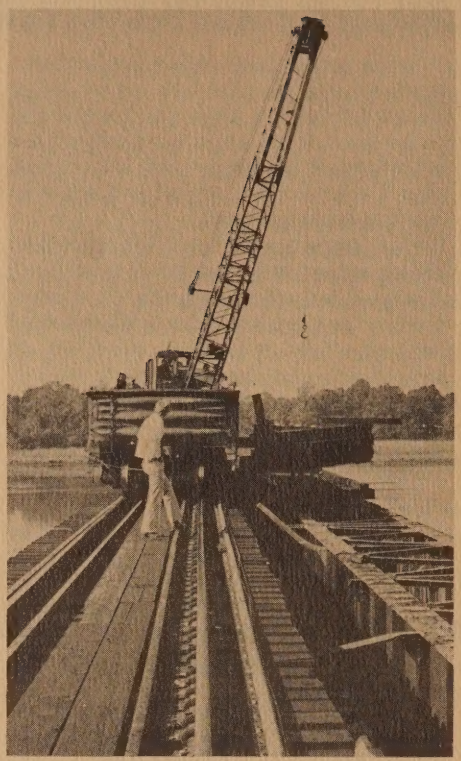
sidered to be a significant architectural landmark.

To preserve this heritage, restoration was carried out from rooftop to sidewalk by a special Conrail crew under the supervision of a Department engineer.

Borough officials made suggestions, their consultant provided the design for the area along the tracks, the son of the person who installed the original leaded windows was engaged to repair them and high school shop students constructed new bases for six of the wooden columns.

Rutherford is one of four stations which have received such extensive renovation under the Department's program so far. The others are Little Falls, Lyndhurst and East Orange.

"This," declared Commissioner Louis J. Gambaccini, "is an example of what can and should be done at stations throughout the state."



NJDOT's $22 million project to rehabilitate the Navesink River Bridge of the New Jersey Coast Line entered its second phase as Conrail crews began removing old ties and rails so structural supports can be strengthened for the northbound tracks. New welded rail has been installed southbound and the entire project is to be completed by next September to provide a smoother, more dependable crossing.

NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
1035 PARKWAY AVENUE
P.O. BOX 101
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

DOT REPAIRS RAIL LINES

Ten New Jersey industries can count on continued rail freight service because of rehabilitation projects carried out by the Department of Transportation on five rail freight lines in four counties.

The Department's Bureau of Freight Services, which supervised the work by Conrail, pressed for completion of the federally-funded improvements in the three-month period ending last month.

Improvements on the approximately 11.5 miles of track in Monmouth, Essex, Atlantic and Burlington Counties included fencing, platform and bridge repair; replacement of ties, and restoration and reconstruction of track shoulders and road crossings.

Efforts have also focused on keeping the bankrupt New York Susquehanna and Western Railroad (NYS&W) in operation. This line serves 78 industries located along 34.9 miles of track in Bergen, Morris and Passaic Counties.

Concerned over possible adverse economic and environmental impacts if the line is lost, the Department has been promoting a takeover by a new owner and/or operator.

The Department maintains 1,854 permanent traffic signals and operates or helps pay the cost of operating more than 45,000 street lighting units on the State Highway System.

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Trenton, N.J.
Permit No. 125

Shoppers Special

Shoppers in the City of Passaic are riding buses at a discount and elderly shoppers may be able to ride free in an innovative program of the Passaic Area Chamber of Commerce.

With each $5 purchase, area merchants, with the approval of the Department of Transportation, are giving coupons worth 20 cents toward the price of the bus ride in the city. Elderly and handicapped persons may combine the coupons with their reduced fare tickets to ride free during off-peak hours.